

NOTE ON LIEUT.-COLONEL R. BRUNTON'S "ALLEGED
RIGHT" TO THE PORTUGUESE COMMANDER'S STAR.

A REPLY BY A. A. PAYNE, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S.

NORMANDALE,
LANGSETT ROAD,
SHEFFIELD,

October 27th, 1919.

DEAR SIR,

I beg to thank you for your kindness and courtesy in having sent me a copy of Colonel J. H. Leslie's remarks respecting Lieut.-Colonel Richard Brunton's Portuguese Commander's Star, stating that he still considers this decoration to be a "fake."

Colonel Leslie "agrees that Officers who may have been in command of a regiment, even temporarily, during a battle, were entitled to the Star," therefore why should he condemn the decoration as being a forgery because he cannot obtain any record of Brunton's service?

It is most difficult to find any record of the services of these English officers who joined the Portuguese army, for instance—

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Pynn, Kt., C.B. This officer, after being a Lieutenant in the South Devon Militia, was recommended by Lord Rolle for an Ensigny in the line, to which he was appointed in the 82nd Foot, in 1799; Lieutenant, 28th November in the same year; Adjutant, 7th September, 1804; and Captain, 30th May, 1805; soon after he was appointed Major of Brigade to Brigadier-General Crosbie in Sussex; and on the 82nd Foot being ordered on foreign service, he volunteered to accompany it, being then junior Captain in the 2nd Battalion. He commanded the left centre Company at the Battles of Roleia and Vimiera; and in 1809 he was appointed Major and attached to the Portuguese Army under Lord Beresford. He served in 1809 as Major of the 3rd Portuguese

Regiment, and in 1810 became Lieut.-Colonel in the 18th Portuguese Regiment, and commanded a detachment of the 5th Brigade in the action at Fuentes d' Onor, on which occasion he was mentioned in the despatch relative to the battle, and for which he has received a medal; he continued in the South of Spain during all the operations of Lord Hill's corps d'armée; he was present at the Battles of Vittoria, Pyrenees, and at the latter he commanded his Regiment and was dangerously wounded; his name was mentioned in the despatches of that battle; he continued five months ill of his wound at Vittoria, and on the 1st January, 1814, he resumed the command of his regiment on the River Adour; his regiment distinguished itself in the action of Garriz¹ (15th February), on which occasion his name was sent to the Duke of Wellington by Sir W. Stewart, for promotion; he also commanded it at the Battles of Orthes and Toulouse, and finally was appointed Colonel of that corps; the 4th June, 1814, he received the brevet of Lieut.-Colonel in the British Service. On 17th December, 1815, the Prince Regent of Portugal appointed him Lieut.-Governor of Valencia. He received medals for the Battles of Fuentes d' Onor, Pyrenees, and Orthes; was a Knight of the Tower and Sword of Portugal and a Companion of the Bath.

Vide *Royal Military Calendar*, 1820, vol. v, pp. 69-70.

In the Portuguese List he is only credited with one battle—Pyrenees—for his Star, and is then mentioned as Colonel. On his Star that was in the collection of the late Colonel John Murray the following battles were inscribed thereon, viz., Fuentes d' Onor, Pyrenees, Gariz and Orthes.

On his Cross only five campaigns are allowed him and he is styled Brigadier. His Cross had vj?

He was awarded the English Gold Medal for Fuentes d' Onor, Pyrenees, Orthes and two Clasps.

Major George Hr. Edward Murphy, Captain on retired full pay, 22nd Foot—

Ensign, 27th November, 1805; Lieutenant, 2nd July, 1807;

¹ Garriz or Gariz is in the Pyrenees, at no great distance from Orthes. Vide *History of Europe*, by Archd. Alison, F.R.S., vol. xviii, p. 238.

Captain, 25th October, 1814; Major, 10th January, 1837. Died 22nd June, 1851.

Major Murphy served in the Peninsula from December, 1808, until the end of the war, including actions at Albeigana and Grijo, passage of the Douro, capture of Coimbra, siege and capture of San Sebastian, passage of the Bidassoa, action at Bidart (wounded), battles of Nivelle, Nive, 9th, 10th (wounded), 11th, 12th and 13th December; blockade of Bayonne, action of St. Ellemo, and Battle of Toulouse. He received the Gold Medal for Toulouse, and the Silver Medal with four Clasps for the Pyrenees, St. Sebastian, Nivelle and Nive.

Vide *Hart's Army List*, 1851, pp. 88-107.

You will observe that though he was awarded the English Gold Medal and the Silver Medal with four Clasps, no mention is made in the Army List about his Portuguese services.

His name in the list of those who were granted the Portuguese Commander's Star is mentioned as Major Jorge Murphy (Geo. Hr. Edw. ?), 23rd Portuguese, and that he was only credited with having been at two battles—Nive and Toulouse.

In the list of awards of the Cross his name is the seventieth below that of Brunton and he is there styled Tenente (Lieutenant) Jorge Murphy, with a Cross for three campaigns.

Again I give below the names of some of the English officers who received the Portuguese Commander's star, but who were not granted a Gold Cross or a Gold Medal.

Major Diogo (James) Johnstone, 5th Portuguese, and Lieut.-Colonel 24th Portuguese.

Major Joao (John) Marcus Clements.

Major Henrique Rayney, afterwards Major-General.

Major Guilherme O'Hara.

Major Antonio Periera Quinland.

In the *Royal Military Calendar*, 1820, vol. v, No. 2616, there is more than a page recording Major James Johnstone's service, but nothing is mentioned of his ever having commanded a regiment, and though he is only credited with three battles for his Star—Vittoria,

Pyrenees, and Nivelles—he was present with the Portuguese at Campo Mayor, Olivenza, Badajoz, Albuhera, attack on Pollas, at Salamanca, capture of Madrid, battles of Pyrenees and attack near Arrunte.

Again the only record of the services of Lieut.-Colonel John Marcus Clements in the *Royal Military Calendar*, 1820, No. 1727, is, Cornet 18th Dragoons, 6th July, 1804; Lieutenant, 4th November, 1805; Captain 5th West India Regiment, 28th August, 1806; Captain 18th Dragoons, 20th August, 1807; Brevet-Major, 12th April, 1814 and Lieut.-Colonel, 21st January, 1819.

As I stated in my previous article in vol. xii of the *Journal*, Colonel William Mayne commanded the Loyal Lusitania Legion, and though he was placed in command of 2000 troops, his name is not found amongst the recipients of either the Portuguese Star or Cross, nor of the Gold Cross or Gold English Medal. It will be remembered that Colonel Mayne was present at the Battle of Waterloo, 15th June, 1815, as a Lieutenant of the 1st Life Guards.

These instances will demonstrate in what a careless and inaccurate manner officers' records were kept both at home and abroad.

With these facts confronting us I fail to understand why Colonel Leslie should continue to condemn Colonel Richard Brunton's Star as a "fake."

Besides the decoration is so handsome, one would think the expense of its manufacture would deter a man from obtaining it whilst still in the Army, as he would be liable to censure if found wearing it.

I am, Sir,

Yours sincerely,

A. A. PAYNE.

To Lieut.-Colonel H. W. Morrieson, F.S.A.